

evolution among the various isolated populations and the fairly recent geological changes in the area render it impossible to work out the history of the genus exactly.

SUMMARY

Evidence is summarised to show that *Spilornis elgini* and *Spilornis cheela davisoni* of the Andaman Islands are sympatric, non-interbreeding species, and not phases of a single form. This is the only instance of sympatry in *Spilornis*, unless further study shows that *kinabaluensis* of the mountains of Borneo is a species overlapping slightly *S. cheela pallidus* of the lowlands. The listing *Spilornis (cheela) kinabaluensis* is recommended, the parenthesis indicating subspecies status, but with reservations. The same is recommended for half a dozen forms of *Spilornis*, which are so distinct that they may be, or have been called, species, but which are from localities, where, unlike the Andamans, there is no direct evidence whether they would interbreed freely with other forms of the genus.

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Geographical variation in *Lophophorus sclateri* by G. W. H. Davison

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The three species of Monals, *Lophophorus*, are so similar that it is clear they share a common ancestry. Probably a single population was fragmented during the Pleistocene glaciations into several groups which evolved to specific level. A basis for the plumage differences between species may have been provided by clinal variation in the ancestral species; there are two clues to this. The three species are now distributed in a west to east fashion in the order *Lophophorus impejanus*, *L. sclateri*, *L. lhuysii*: the tail colour of males is

seen to be light cinnamon, dark brown, and black, respectively; while the rump colour of females varies from brown in *L. impejanus*, through dull greyish (western *L. sclateri*) and lightly-barred white (eastern *L. sclateri*) to pure white in *L. lhuysii*.

Published records suggest that four or more distinct populations of *L. sclateri* existed at least until the mid-1950s: (i) around Lo La, Tibet; (ii) Pome and the Po Yigrong, Tibet; (iii) Mishmi Hills and north Burma border; and (iv) Myitkyina, Burma, and adjacent parts of north-western Yunnan. Probably the first and second of these populations are confluent. Their present status is unknown, there having been no sight records for some years, but it is assumed that the species is dangerously rare. Combined data from specimens in the British Museum, American Museum of Natural History and Smithsonian Institution indicate that the Myitkyina/Yunnan population is worthy of subspecific recognition. By contrast, typical specimens from the Mishmi Hills, Arunachal Pradesh (formerly N.E.F.A.), agree in plumage with more westerly populations. Variation in the plumage of male *L. sclateri* was first noted by Ali & Ripley (1948), who suggested that western birds were less streaked on the rump than those from the east. Specimens do give an indication of this but it is a character difficult to define quantitatively.

Lophophorus sclateri orientalis, subsp. nov.

Description: In the male the terminal white tail band, measured along the shaft of the central tail feathers, is much narrower than that of western birds, while the culmen measured from the feathers averages a little shorter. The dark shaft-streaks on the back extend less far down the rump but the individual streaks are wider, averaging 2 mm wide as against 1.3 mm for western birds. The female is paler than the type, with an off-white rump barred with dark grey. The dark chocolate colour of the secondaries is much invaded by rufous-buff; on the neck the markings are larger and paler and on the breast the barring is wider and more distinct, less blurred by speckling and irregularities. The female's bill also is shorter.

Type: ♂ adult, collected in 1925 by M. West in Myitkyina District, north-east Burma. In British Museum (Natural History), registered number 1928.7.14.4. Wing 308, culmen 31.5, tail band 17 mm.

Distribution: A restricted area in the Chimili Pass and Myitkyina District, north-east Burma, from the upper Irrawady eastwards into north-west Yunnan around Tengyueh and the Schweli-Salween watershed.

Measurements:

		<i>Tail band (mm)</i>	<i>Culmen (mm)</i>
<i>L. s. sclateri</i>	6♂♂	20 - 28 (25.5)	32.5 - 35.5 (34.5)
	3♀♀	—	32.5 - 35.0 (34.2)
<i>L. s. orientalis</i>	9♂♂	10.5 - 20 (16.2)	31 - 34 (32.3)
	3♀♀	—	28.5 - 30.5 (29.1)

Material: Eight males and four females of the species in the British Museum, of which four males and one female are ascribed to *L. s. orientalis*. Data on seven males and two females in the American Museum of Natural History and Smithsonian Institution.

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Reference:

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